

Message Text

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TAGS: TATT, TGEN, UNGA, KE
SUBJ: MEETING OF PREPARATORY COMMITTEE OF UN CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

REF STATE 5934

1. GENERAL POINTS OF REFTEL CONVEYED TO S. M. MUTURI, SCIENCE
SECRETARY
OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MINISTRY OF
FINANCE AND PLANNING. OFFICIALS OF THE ECONOMIC AND UNITED NATIONS
DIVISIONS, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFERRED INQUIRIES TO
NATIONAL COUNCIL.

2. KENYA DELEGATE TO PREPARATORY CONFERENCE WILL BE PROFESSOR PETER
GACII, SECRETARY TO NATIONAL COUNCIL AND HEAD OF COUNCIL SECRETARIATE,

PRESENTLY OUT OF COUNTRY. DR. GACII REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN NOMINATED
TO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF
UN COMMISSION ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS. HE REPORTEDLY HAS HELD THE COUNCIL

POSITION FOR PAST THREE YEARS AFTER SERVING ON SCIENCE FACULTY
(PHYSICS)
AT UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI. HE ATTENDED A SHORT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY-
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RELATED WORKSHOP AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY UNDER AN AID GRANT ABOUT TWO
YEAR AGO.

3. ACCORDING TO MR. MUTURI, KENYA SHOULD HAVE NATIONAL PAPER
READY BY MAY 1 DEADLINE AND ASPIRES TO MAJOR ROLE IN CONFERENCE
PROCEEDINGS.

4. ALTHOUGH IN EXISTENCE ABOUT THREE YEARS, THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WAS FORMERLY ESTABLISHED LAST MARCH BY THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1977. THE COUNCIL CONSISTS OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARIES OF THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND 14 MINISTRIES, ALONG WITH 12 SCIENTISTS OF EMINENCE, AND REPORTS TO THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND PLANNING.

5. COMMENT: BECAUSE OF THE ACT, DR. GACHII MAY NOW FEEL FREE TO SPEAK WITH THE AUTHORITY HE HAS CLAIMED TO LACK IN THE PAST. HE IS LOCALLY PROMINENT AS A SPOKESMAN OF THE ROLE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN DEVELOPMENT. MR. MUTURI'S ESTIMATE FOR PREPARATION OF THE NATIONAL PAPER MAY BE OVERLY OPTIMISTIC, GIVEN THE RECENT FORMAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COUNCIL. A KNOWLEDGEABLE OPINION REGARDING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL CAN BE SOLICITED FROM A USIS RESOURCE WHO RECENTLY HAD LENGTHY DISCUSSION WITH COUNCIL MEMBERS:

MR. HARVEY W. WALLENDER III
MANAGING DIRECTOR
COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAS
680 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK

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